

MINUTES
SMITHS GROVE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
SMITHS GROVE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021 7:00PM

Mayor David Stiffey called the meeting to order at 6:58pm.

Members Present: Mayor David Stiffey, Commissioner Maurice (Buddy) Marr, Commissioner Bob Buehl, Commissioner Steve Roney, Commissioner Eric Schroader, City Attorney Hamp Moore, Police Chief Jason Franks, and City Clerk, Nancy Howard.

Members Absent: None

Invocation was given by Commissioner Marr.

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Stiffey asked the Commissioners if there were any corrections or additions to the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2021. With no changes, the minutes were approved unanimously.

REPORTS

Treasurers Report – March 2021

A motion was made by Commissioner Marr to accept the Treasurers Report as read and was seconded by Commissioner Buehl. The Treasurers Reports were approved by 5-0 vote.

Administration Report

Mayor Stiffey began the Administrative Report by stating that the Occupational License Tax income is still coming in and has provided over \$100,000 in income since the adoption of the 2019 Ordinance. The Clerks sent out over 500 Cemetery Donation letters and are receiving good feedback of donations and compliments on the upkeep of the Cemetery. The Mayor introduced the Proclamation in Honor of Howard Scott Magers by reading it and then asking for a moment of silence in honor of this World War II hero who perished with the USS Oklahoma. Mayor Stiffey said the City would fly our flags at half-mast and display yellow ribbons in honor Seaman 2nd Class Magers. The Garden Patch has volunteered to provide yellow ribbons for free to residents wishing to participate in honoring this military hero on May 29, 2021.

A bid for the electrical updating to LED light fixtures in the front remaining areas of City Hall, \$836 and the Cemetery Chapel, \$223, for a total of \$1050 was received from Patriot Electric. The Mayor made a motion to approve the bid for the work and Commissioner Marr seconded the motion. The vote was 5-0 to approve the bid for Patriot Electric work at \$1050.

Public Works Report

Commissioner Marr stated that he and Chief Franks worked on adding Speed Limit signs, No Parking signs, some curb striping, and re-striping lanes at the McDonald's entrance. Commissioner Marr has requested bids for some street work that will be done later this year. He thanked everyone who worked together to remove a fallen tree on Cave Street during a recent storm.

Police, Public Safety, Health and Welfare Report

Commissioner Schroader had nothing to report and deferred to Chief Franks. Chief Franks stated he worked 160 incidents in the past month including a multi-agency case involving the recovery of stolen vans/vehicles. Mayor Stiffey commented that after July 1, with the new fiscal year, the city is anticipating hiring a full-time Assistant Chief of Police, with the increased income received from the Occupational License Tax.

Cemetery Report

Commissioner Roney stated there were monuments in need of repair and the chapel roof has a small leak. Commissioner Buehl stated he had one stone he hopes to repair for less than \$100 and another that will require assistance to repair and may be more costly.

Code Enforcement Report

Commissioner Buehl stated that the 476 Cave Street property clean -up will be addressed this Saturday. Chief Franks added that a Middle School youth group will be helping clean up some properties where the owners are not physically or financially able to do so. Chief Franks also stated that the Ordinance pertaining to Abandoned Vehicles is being enforced. Those vehicles must not be visible from the street. Chief Franks explained the April 1st Golf Ordinance implementation whereby each golf cart owner must have their golf cart inspected by the Warren Co. Sheriff Dept. and bring that inspection form to Smiths Grove City Hall to be issued a Smiths Grove Golf Cart License for \$10. He responded to questions about the scheduling of inspections with the Warren Co. Sheriff office, stating if you request the Sheriff's office personnel to come to Smiths Grove, the cost is \$15 or \$5 if you take your golf cart to the Sheriff's office.

Mayor Stiffey commented that he had been in contact with the representative from Republic Services, Todd Chamberlain, who has worked to resolve the invoicing issues for The Meadows subdivision area property owners. Todd believes those residents should have correct bills for the new cycle of invoicing.

Committee Reports

Mayor Stiffey stated that our Aging Council rep, Jessie Varner, did not have a report for this month but Clerk Howard added that info from Mr. Varner is uploaded to the www.smithsgrove.org website, in the section labeled "What's New in the Grove" when there are free participation events for seniors.

Old Business

The Mayor deferred to City Attorney Hamp Moore to explain the status of the distance change in the Dec 2020 CCPC Amendment proposal from ¼ mile to ¾ mile perimeter around each of the four smaller Warren County cities, per Warren County City/County Planning Commission. Attorney Moore provided the group with an overview of how the Interlocal Agreement of the Warren County City-County Planning Commission is comprised with members (Bowling Green reps, Warren County reps and each small city rep for Smiths Grove, Plum Springs, Oakland, and Woodburn) and their voting rights. The perimeter distance around each of the small cities has been verbally agreed up as ¾ mile for the December 2020 proposed Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement but each of the four cities will be voting on that verbal agreement at their May 2021 meeting.

New Business

Mayor Stiffey explained the resignation of John Meredith as the City's mowing contractor.

During the Contract Bid Award process the Commission determined the top four bidders. The Mayor contacted the second bidder, Tyler Furlong, who agreed to acceptance the position. The Mayor made a motion to accept the resignation of John Meredith and to approve Tyler Furlong as the new mowing contractor for the City. Commission Roney seconded the motion, and the vote was 5-0 to approve Furlong Lawn Care, Tyler Furlong as the mowing contractor for 2021.

The Mayor read the April 5, 2021 Recommendation for Right-of-Way closing, 3,783 square feet of a portion of an unimproved right-of-way located on South Main St. between 220 & 237 Main St. in Smiths Grove, provided by the Warren Co. City-County Planning Commission. The Mayor gave a brief history of Gary and Betty Vincent's application to have this property changed from alley/right-of-way to their own shared property with the adjoining neighbor. The Vincent's have born the cost of this change. Commissioner Schroader made a motion to accept the City-County Planning Commission's recommendation for closure of the right-of-way with Commissioner Buehl's second to the motion. Commissioner Marr stated that he is not in favor of any city Right-of-Way closure. The vote was 4-yes and 1-no on the recommendation to close the Right-of-Way between 220 & 234 South Main Street. This is the first reading of the Ordinance to close this Right-of-Way and requires a seconding reading at the May 2021 meeting.

The Mayor read the April 5, 2021 Recommendation to re-zone approximately 4.22 acres located at 0 Kentucky Street and 0 & 332 Laurel Street from LI (Light Industrial), HI (Heavy Industrial) and RS-1A (Single Family Residential) to LI (Light Industrial) and GB (General Business). This property is presently owned by Edgehill Farms, Inc. & John F. Ballance. Discussion to understand the current zoning and future zoning ensued with the Commission, CCPC Director Ben Peterson and Attorney Hamp Moore. Director, Ben Peterson, explained the meeting participation notice process of a zoning request which includes; yellow meeting notice signs are posted 14 days on the property in question, meeting notice letters are mailed to property owners adjoining that property and property owners within 250 ft. of the property requesting re-zoning and public meeting notice of the re-zoning request is published in the Bowling Green Daily News. Attorney Hamp Moore explained the process for participation in zoning matters to the audience and Commission. In this matter, the public notice meeting has already taken place on March 18, 2021 where the public had opportunity for input to the zoning request. At this point in the process the Commission has the only input, with the following options; 1) to take a vote to approve the recommendation. 2) to review the video record of the March 18, 2021 meeting, listen to the comments and make any findings from that meeting that differ from the CCPC recommendation 3) to take a vote to disapprove the recommendation.

The Mayor asked Mr. John Ballance to explain his zoning request, which he did. The zoning request was initiated by a need to change the current zoning in order to be compliant with the City-County Planning Commission standards. Mr. Ballance explained his request and fielded questions from the Commission. There was concern from Commissioners Marr and Roney regarding the potential building of apartments on the property. After much discussion, Commissioner Buehl made a motion to accept the City-County Planning Commission's recommendation on the re-zoning request by Edgehill Farms Inc & John Ballance and the Mayor seconded the motion. The vote was 3- Yes and 2-No on the recommendation. Attorney Moore reminded the City that this will require an Ordinance with this being the First Reading of that Ordinance and a Second Reading is required at the May 2021 Commission meeting.

With there being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 9:00p.m. by Mayor Stiffey.

APPROVED David L. Stiffey
DAVID L. STIFFEY, MAYOR

ATTEST Nancy Howard
NANCY HOWARD, CITY CLERK

DATE 5-24-2021
Minutes were prepared by Nancy Howard, City Clerk.